



MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE

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February 15, 2006

Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
127 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101-2147

RE: Comments and Recommendation of the Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Facility
Permitting Staff
Docket No. G002/GP-05-1706

Dear Dr. Haar:

Attached are the comments and recommendation of the Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy
Facility Permitting Staff in the following matter:

In the Matter of the Application of Xcel Energy for a Partial Exemption from Pipeline Route Selection
Procedures and for a Pipeline Routing Permit for a 2.5-mile natural gas pipeline to serve the High
Bridge Generating Plant Conversion Project. The application was filed on November 8, 2005.


The Department is providing you with DOC EFP staff:

- A. Comments and Recommendations
- B. EFP Exhibit List
- C. Xcel Energy Response Letter to the three Comment Letters Received on the Project
- D. Proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions
- E. Proposed Pipeline Routing Permit

The Department EFP staff recommends approval of the proposed findings of fact that grant the partial
exemption and issue a pipeline routing permit. Staff also recommends approval of the proposed pipeline
routing permit.

Staff is available to answer any questions the Commission may have.

Sincerely,


LARRY B. HARTMAN
DOC EFP Staff

LBH/jl
Enclosures